

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION**

**CHAPTER 0780-2-2  
CODES AND STANDARDS**

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**0780-2-2-.01 ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.**

- (1) Unless otherwise provided by applicable law or the provisions of this chapter, the required minimum standards for fire prevention, fire protection and building construction safety in the State of Tennessee shall be those prescribed in the following publications:
  - (a) SBCCI Standard Building Code, 1999 edition, including SBCCI Standard Gas Code, 1999 edition, and SBCCI Standard Mechanical Code, 1997 edition, published by the Southern Building Code Congress International Inc., 400 Montclair Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213-1206.
  - (b) Uniform Fire Code (NFPA 1), 2003 edition, including each reference in NFPA 1, Chapter 2 (excluding NFPA 5000), published by the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-9101. Each reference in NFPA 1 Uniform Fire Code, Chapter 2 to an NFPA code or standard shall be deemed to be the edition printed in the National Fire Codes, 2003 edition.
- (2) Paragraph (1) of this rule shall not be construed as adopting any provision of the cited publications which establishes:
  - (a) an optional or recommended, rather than mandatory, standard or practice; or
  - (b) any agency, procedure, fees or penalties for administration or enforcement purposes.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-120-101 and 68-102-113. **Administrative History:** Original rule certified June 10, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed August 17, 1976; effective September 16, 1976. Repeal and new rule filed July 27, 1982; effective August 26, 1982. Amendment filed October 11, 1985; effective November 10, 1985. Amendment filed July 9, 1990; effective August 23, 1990. Amendment filed March 13, 1996; effective May 27, 1996. Amendment filed October 14, 1997; effective December 28, 1997. Amendment filed June 12, 2001; effective August 26, 2001. Amendment filed March 19, 2004; effective June 2, 2004.

**0780-2-2-.02 APPLICATION.**

- (1) The provisions of the codes adopted by reference in rule 0780-2-2-.01 shall govern the manner in which:
  - (a) the codes are applied to new construction and existing buildings.
  - (b) occupancies and types of construction are classified for the purpose of determining minimum code requirements; and

(Rule 0780-2-2-.02, continued)

- (c) the specific requirements of the codes may be modified to permit the use of alternate materials or methods of construction.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§53-2413 and Chapter 857, Public Acts of 1982. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 27, 1982; effective August 26, 1982.

**0780-2-2-.03 RETROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT.** Any existing building which conformed to the standards legally effective at the time of its construction shall not be subject to the standards adopted by reference in rule 0780-2-2-.01, unless the nonconformity of the building to such standards poses a serious life safety hazard. However, any construction as defined in rule 0780-2-3-.01 undertaken after the effective date of this chapter shall be in compliance with the standards adopted by reference in rule 0780-2-2-.01.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§53-2413, 68-102-113, 68-120-102, and Chapter 857, Public Acts of 1982. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 27, 1982; effective August 26, 1982. Amendment filed June 12, 2001; effective August 26, 2001.

**0780-2-2-.04 CONFLICTS.**

- (1) In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the codes adopted by reference in rule 0780-2-2-.01:
  - (a) the provisions of the Standard Building Code shall prevail if such conflict or inconsistency relates to height, area restrictions or construction type; and
  - (b) the more stringent code provision shall prevail in all other cases.
- (2) In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between either code adopted by reference in rule 0780-2-2-.01, and Chapter 0780-2-1 (Electrical Installations) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee, the provisions of such chapter shall control.
- (3) Nothing in this rule shall abrogate any right of appeal granted under Tenn. Code Ann., Title 68, Chapters 102 and 120.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§68-120-101 and 68-102-113. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 27, 1982; effective August 26, 1982. Amendment filed November 14, 1983; effective December 14, 1983. Amendment filed July 9, 1990; effective August 23, 1990. Amendment filed October 14, 1997; effective December 28, 1997. Amendment filed March 19, 2004; effective June 2, 2004.

**0780-2-2-.05 LOCAL ORDINANCES.** Except as provided in *Tenn. Code Ann. §68-18-101*, no city, county, town, municipal corporation, metropolitan government, or political subdivision of this State shall adopt or enforce any ordinance prescribing less stringent standards of fire prevention, fire protection, or building construction safety than those established hereunder.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§58-2413, 68-17-113, 68-18-101, and Chapter 857, Public Acts of 1982. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 17, 1982; effective August 26, 1982. Amendment filed October 11, 1985; effective November 10, 1985.